

New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration Fiscal Note Quick Guide

16-2047

HB 1198, *relative to the valuation of poles and conduits owned by telephone utilities.*

Senate Ways & Means Committee

HB 1198, as amended, would require the Assessing Standards Board to annually hold a public forum and determine a schedule of values of poles and conduits owned by telephone utilities based on a statutory formula. Municipalities would use the schedule of value to determine the tax burden of poles and conduits owned by telephone utilities. This additional duty may increase state expenditure by a small but indeterminable amount, including the per diem and mileage rate paid to Board members pursuant to RSA 21-J:14-a, III.

Section 3 of HB 1198 requires municipalities to capture more detailed information about telecommunications property than may be currently available to municipal assessors. The owner of property subject to this valuation would be providing the information through the filing of an Inventory of Telecommunications Poles and Conduits with both the municipality where the property is located and the Department of Revenue Administration (“Department”). Municipalities would need to collect and maintain this detailed information on each pole/conduit in order to comply with the provisions of the law. The cost of compiling and maintaining this information is not known.

The imposition of a valuation formula for valuing poles and conduits owned by telephone utilities could result in a different value and as a result, a different property tax assessment. However, were a different valuation to result, it would simply shift the burden of tax among local taxpayers, without affecting the total amount of revenue received from the local property tax.